



T14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1.3 JAN 2005
PATENT #14

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/510,936)
Filed: October 8, 2004)
For: WASHING APPLIANCE WATER)
SOFTENER)
Applicant: Maunsell et al.)
Examiner: Not yet assigned)
Art Unit: Not yet assigned)
Attorney Ref: 1170/42213/136-PCT-US)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

January 11, 2005
Tiffany E. Sexton

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and Form SB08A. Copies of the listed references are included herewith.

These references were either cited in the Background Art section of the patent application or in a Search Report completed on June 27, 2003, a copy of which was forwarded to the United States Patent and Trademark Office concurrently with the filing of the patent application on October 8, 2004.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.3

German Patent No. 2851541 is not in the English language. DE 2851541 discloses a process for washing dishes in a household dishwashing machine equipped with a rinsing container that is connected to a fresh water supply line and a soft water supply line leading out of an ion exchanger, which can be filled or emptied by means of a programming and fill level control device as well as controllable valves through which flow fresh, soft or mixed water for the subroutines - pre-rinsing, washing, interim rinsing, clear rinsing and drying - which can be selected, characterized in that the rinsing container can be filled with mixed water for cleaning

and interim rinsing, the water hardness of which can be set with a timed controllable fresh water supply and a subsequent soft supply to a programmable fill level.

German Patent No. 2911366 is also not in the English language. Claim 1 is as follows:

Process for monitoring the fill level of the salt stock of a salt container needed to regenerate an ion exchanger in a dishwashing machine or a clothes washing machine, characterized in that the salt container is exposed to, irradiated or subjected to light or sound, and that the light or sound waves are reflected by the contents of the salt container and/or pass through it in a dampened fashion, and that in the event of any deviation of the reflection and/or through value from the set point, a signal is issued for the salt to be refilled.

The are English abstracts attached to the remaining Non-English foreign patents cited in this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

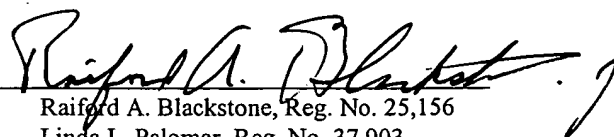
Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

Jan 11, 2005

By:



Raiford A. Blackstone, Reg. No. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903
Trexler, Bushnell, Giangiorgi,
Blackstone & Marr, Ltd.

105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 704-1890

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Number	10/510,936
Filing Date	October 8, 2004
First Named Inventor	Stephen Maunsell
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1170/42213

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	2	of	5
-------	---	----	---

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/510,936
Filing Date	October 8, 2004
First Named Inventor	Stephen Maunsell
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1170/42213

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign PatentD ocument	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		DE3544580	06/19/1987	HELMUT		
		DE4135820	05/06/1996	SCHMIDT		
		FR2615617	05/22/1987	HAMON		
		FR2825176	11/29/2002	COLVIS		
		EP919178	06/02/1999	CARLI		
		EP741991	11/13/1996	AISA		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

3

0

5

A

Orne

Complete if Known

Application Number

10/510.936

Filing Date

October 8, 2004

First Named Inventor

Stephen Maunsell

Art Unit

Not Yet Assigned

Examiner Name

Not Yet Assigned

Attorney Docket Number

1170/42213

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent/D document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 01/26532	04/19/2001	CALHOUN		
		JP9005021	01/10/1997	OSAMU		
		EP351564	01/24/1990	HELMUT		
		EP1048776	11/02/2000	CARLI		
		EP219704	04/29/1987	MILOCCO		
		EP367062	05/09/1990	FONTANA		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

4

9

5

Attorney

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/510,936
--------------------	------------

Filing Date	October 8, 2004
-------------	-----------------

First Named Inventor	Stephen Maunsell
----------------------	------------------

Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
----------	------------------

Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
---------------	------------------

Attorney Docket Number	1170/42213
------------------------	------------

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent/Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP433676	06/26/1991	BONGINI		
		EP545127	06/09/1993	MILOCCO		
		EP860140	09/26/1998	CARLI		
		EP900765	03/10/1999	ZUCHOLL		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/510,936
		Filing Date	October 8, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Stephen Maunsell
		Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 5	of 5	Attorney Docket Number	1170/42213

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0149489; Published October 17, 2002; Inventor Bearak; Entitled: Automatic Salt Level Monitor for a Water Softening Device	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.